Proposal to Wipe Out Metre Gauge Rail Lines in the Country

7836. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to wipe out metre gauge rail line in the country by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan Period;

(b) whether any time limit has been fixed State-wise therefor during the said plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of progress made in Madhya Pradesh in that regard district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI G.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The following gauge conversion projects are targetted for completion during Eighth Plan in M.P.

(1) Necmuch-Ratlem — Work just started

As the work has just been started no district-wise progress can be given.

(2) Ratlam-Mhow — Yet to be included in Budget

Daily running of Luckuow-Kanpur-New Delhi Shatabdi Express Train

7837. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any petition from the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, Kanpur to make the Lucknow-Kanpur-New Delhi Shatabdi Express run on daily basis in view of the difficulties being faced by the people of Kanpur in the absence of any ,air link also to Delhi; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Examined but not found feasible due to operational/maintenance constraints.

Looting of Passengers in Express Trains

7838. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total loss of passengers money and jewellery looted in Express trains during the year 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993;

(b) whether the affected passengers have submitted claims in these cases;

(c) if so, what is the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) 38 claim cases were received for loss of money and jewellery during the year 1990 to 1993.

An amount of Rs. 39,487/- in four cases was restored to the claiments where the money had been received by the Railways as lost or unclaimed properties. However, claim cases amounting to Rs. 13,42,542/- have been repudiated under section 100 of the Railway Act, 1989, because the luggage was not booked and was carried by passengers in their own custody. The Railway is not liable to pay for the loss of such unbooked consignments. However, Policing is a State subject and hence maintenance of law and order and control of crime on Railway premises including running trains is the responsibility of the State Government concerned, who discharge these duties through the Government Railway Police. The cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police.